IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The optical element according to Claim 17, wherein the component (A) is at least one silicon-containing substance selected from the group consisting of the organic silicon compounds of the formula (I) and their hydrolyzates.

Claims 11-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The optical element according to Claim [[13]] 17, wherein ~~the coating material (b) of the component (B) contains an alkali component consisting of an alkylamine, and has a M/Sb_2O_5 molar ratio, where~~ M is an ~~amine molecule) of from 0.02 to 4.00~~ alkylamine.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The optical element according to Claim 17, wherein the coating material (b) of the component (B) further contains an alkylamine-containing silica.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The optical element according to Claim 17, wherein the coating composition contains at least one curing catalyst selected from the group consisting of metal salts, metal alkoxides and metal chelates.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An optical element which comprises an optical substrate and a cured film made of a coating composition formed on the surface of the optical substrate, wherein the coating composition comprises the following components (A) and (B):

component (A): at least one silicon-containing substance selected from the group consisting of organic silicon compounds of formula (I):

$(R^1)_a(R^3)_bSi(OR^2)_{4-(a+b)}$ (I)

wherein each of R^1 and R^3 is an alkyl group, an aryl group, a halogenated alkyl group, a halogenated aryl group, an alkenyl group, or an organic group having an epoxy group, an acryloyl group, a methacryloyl group, a mercapto group, an amino group or a cyano group, which is bonded to the silicon atom by a Si-C bond, R^2 is a C_{1-8} alkyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group or an acyl group, and each of a and b is an integer of 0, 1 or 2, provided that a+b is an integer of 0, 1 or 2, and the formula (II):

$[(R^4)_cSi(OX)_{3-c}]_2Y$ (II)

wherein R^4 is a C_{1-5} alkyl group, X is a C_{1-4} alkyl group or an acyl group, Y is a methylene group or a C_{2-20} alkylene group, and c is an integer of 0 or 1, and their hydrolyzates; and

component (B): colloidal particles of a modified metal oxide which have primary particle diameters of from 2 to 100 nm and which contain particles (c) comprising colloidal particles (a) of a metal oxide having primary particle diameters of from 2 to 60 nm, selected from the group consisting of Fe_2O_3 particles, CuO particles, ZnO particles, Y_2O_3 particles, ZrO_2 particles, Nb_2O_5 particles, MoO_3 particles, In_2O_3 particles, SnO_2 particles, Ta_2O_5 particles, WO_3 particles, PbO particles, Bi_2O_3 particles, SnO_2-WO_3 composite particles, SnO_2-ZrO_2 composite particles, TiO_2-ZrO_2-SnO_2 composite particles, $ZnSb_2O_6$ particles, $InSbO_4$ particles, $ZnSnO_3$ particles and combinations thereof, as nuclei, and a coating

material (b) ~~consisting of colloidal particles of an acidic oxide~~ comprising alkali component-containing diantimony pentoxide colloidal particles having a M/Sb_2O_5 molar ratio, where M is an alkali metal, ammonium, a quaternary ammonium or an amine, of from 0.02 to 4.00, coated on the surface of the particles (a).

Claim 18 (Original): The optical element according to Claim 17, which further has an antireflection film formed on its surface.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 17 has been amended to be coextensive with Claim 1 of US 6,626,987, which issued from the parent of the present application, regarding particles (c). Claims 11-13 have been canceled. Claim 14 has been amended by limiting M to an alkylamine, as supported in the specification at page 16, line 10.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 10 and 14-18 are now pending in the application.